

center that he wished to establish. Founded on the banks of the mighty Illinois River and later near the Illinois Michigan Canal, the early settlement was full of promise with the capacity to become a center of manufacturing and industry. Today that same river still plays an integral part in the industrial and recreational life of Marseilles.

Always a center for innovation and promise, the men and women who have called Marseilles home have gone on to make great contributions to their country and their fellow man. Solomon Bell, the inventor of the original reaper that transformed the agricultural industry worldwide, began his career in Marseilles and today this community is well equipped to nurture the next generation of inventors, scientists and leaders.

The people of Marseilles have a rich history of service to their country. Soldiers and war heroes from nearly every major war in the past century have spent their time in Marseilles and many have found their final resting place here. Mothers and fathers have sent their sons and daughters to fight for our country's freedom for generations and the community of Marseilles has shown a unique dedication to honoring our veterans and remembering our fallen heroes.

On June 19th, 2004, Marseilles became home to the Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall. This Wall is the only memorial in the United States dedicated solely to honoring the servicemen and women who have lost their lives fighting in wars in the Middle East since 1979. As an ardent supporter of all veterans, I am especially proud of Marseilles for this fact.

Since its founding 175 years ago, Marseilles has become a community that takes pride in its schools, its beautiful churches, its hard workers, and its atmosphere of friendliness and family. This character is what brings Marseilles into its 175th year as a thriving, vibrant community and I am confident that it will continue to carry on this legacy for many years to come.

STANDING IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to express my strong support for the State of Israel, adding my voice alongside that of the millions of Americans who support the State of Israel.

On May 31, Israeli forces took military action and boarded six ships in a flotilla that was attempting to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. No matter how regrettable the loss of life may be in this incident, it does not change the underlying fact that Israel has a right to defend herself, and in this case was exercising it.

When Hamas seized control of Gaza, this terrorist organization used it as a base of operations from which to commit acts of terrorism against Israel and her citizens. In re-

sponse, Israel imposed a blockade of Gaza to prevent weapons from reaching the hands of terrorists to be used to maim and kill innocent Israeli citizens. By implementing this policy and stemming the ability of Hamas to carry out acts of terrorism, Israel not only saved lives in Israel, but also has saved lives in Gaza.

Had this flotilla truly been about providing humanitarian aid to Gaza, why did they not accept Israel's offer to let the ships dock at an Israeli port, be inspected, and then proceed over land to Gaza? Based on the flotilla's actions, it seems the political mission of attempting to break the Israeli blockade was of higher priority than the humanitarian mission of providing aid to Gaza.

The State of Israel is one of the United States' staunchest allies, and our two nations have enjoyed a special relationship since the founding of the State of Israel over sixty years ago.

Over the course of this relationship, the United States has proudly and unwaveringly stood by our friend and ally, Israel. We should and must continue to do so now.

CONGRATULATING BALLET MEMPHIS ON THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ballet Memphis for their invitation to perform as part of "Ballet Across America II" at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on June 17 and 19, 2010. This will be Ballet Memphis' debut performance at the Kennedy Center and it will be the first Tennessee dance company to perform on the main stage. Ballet Memphis joins eight notable dance companies from around our nation to take part in the second installment of this week-long production.

Dorothy Gunther Pugh founded Ballet Memphis in 1986 as Memphis Concert Ballet and currently serves as Artistic Director. Ballet Memphis began as a company with two professional dancers and an operating budget of \$75,000. Now in its 23rd season, it employs 16 dancers, trains 700 students, tours local schools and has an operating budget of \$3.3 million. The company performs at various venues in Memphis including the Orpheum Theatre, the newly renovated Playhouse on the Square and their own award-winning studio in East Memphis.

Ballet Memphis has had the distinct honor of performing at various festivals around the world. They have performed as part of the Inside/Out Series at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Massachusetts, Spring to Dance in St. Louis and the Joyce Theater in New York. Ballet Memphis has performed in productions in Paris and Quebec as well. Recognized by the Ford Foundation as a "national treasure," the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded Ballet Memphis a grant to explore

opportunities for redefining midsize ballet companies in the nation. Ballet Memphis' performance this week at The Kennedy Center will bring nationwide attention to dance companies of similar size and talent.

Ballet Memphis will take to the Kennedy Center main stage performing their 2007 original piece "In Dreams" choreographed by Trey McIntyre and set to music recorded at Memphis' Sun Studio by Roy Orbison. Mrs. Pugh's choreographers reflect the musical and literary history of Memphis and merge both rock-and-roll and soul music to bring to the forefront the importance of all humanity living together. Mrs. Pugh stated "this is a really good piece for us to perform because it sets us apart in terms of the different ways we create work to reflect the community."

Through their commitment to hard work and outstanding performances, Ballet Memphis has built a distinguished name of which they can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Ballet Memphis for their many accomplishments and for being invited to perform in "Ballet Across America II."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY LIFE CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dedication of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church Family Life Center.

Located within the predominantly African American "Stop Six" Neighborhood of Southeast Fort Worth, the Center will help meet challenges in relation to social, educational and cultural service needs of the community. The new 15,000 square-foot structure is named to honor two former Pastors of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Reverends Houston and Lockett, and will serve as a multi-purpose center. With the efforts of non-profit organizations, the Center intends to develop programs to address challenges such as illiteracy, job assistance programs and health needs such as the high infant mortality rates and other needs faced by the surrounding community.

The Family Life Center will help improve the quality of life across a multi-generational spectrum. The area's children will find education in Art, Music and Dance. Seniors will find it a place of assistance, and families as a whole can participate in recreational activities to enjoy quality time together.

I am honored to congratulate Reverend Bruce Datcher and the Congregation of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for their new addition and commitment to South East Fort Worth. It is my pleasure to extend my best wishes for success in their mission as they seek to meet the physical, mental, social and emotional needs of the community.